

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, there is a term that is often used here in the Senate when members refer to one another. That term is "gentleman." No one fit that term better than Senator Craig Thomas. I join with all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in mourning the loss of Senator Thomas, and in extending our condolences to his wonderful wife Susan and the entire Thomas family.

In the 10 years I was privileged to serve with Senator Thomas in this Chamber, I never once heard him raise his voice, and I never once saw him lose his temper. But that doesn't mean that Senator Thomas was not a fighter for his beloved Wyoming. In fact, he was a very effective advocate for the people of Wyoming and all of rural America. His accomplishments were not the result of shouting. They were the result of perseverance, integrity, and a whole lot of hard work.

I was privileged to serve with Senator Thomas on a number of committees, where I saw firsthand the scope of his interests and his effectiveness. On the Finance Committee, I saw how he was a champion for better health care for rural Americans, and I saw how he worked to open markets for the cattlemen, farmers, and soda ash producers of Wyoming.

On the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he brought Wyoming's unique perspective to the forefront on the energy debate, and, as chairman and ranking member of the National Parks Subcommittee, he brought the first reform overhaul to the National Parks Service in 20 years—a vital step in a State that is home to the Yellowstone National Park, one of the crown jewels of our park system.

And I served with Craig on the Indian Affairs committee, where the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes of Wyoming's Wild River Reservation and Native Americans across the country could always count on his commitment to improving their lives.

Although Craig Thomas spent the last 18 years of his life working in the corridors of the U.S. Capitol, he never forgot where he came from. He was a true westerner, a straight-talker, and he was always just "Craig" to his constituents. Always at Craig's side was his wife and partner Susan, who is always a remarkable, eloquent advocate for Wyoming. The last several months have been difficult and challenging ones for Craig, and Susan was always there for him.

Mr. President, my wife Sharon joins with me in extending our condolences to Susan, the Thomas family, and the people of Wyoming. I can say without hesitation that the "gentleman from Wyoming" will always be remembered by those of us who were fortunate to serve with him, and by all those he served with such diligence and distinction.

IRAQ

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to join the majority leader in marking a solemn milestone in the war in Iraq. Three thousand five hundred members of the armed services have died fighting in Iraq. Like those before them who died serving their country, those 3,500 men and women have served honorably. We are all indebted to them for their courage and patriotism, as we are indebted to the 25,950 troops who have been wounded.

It has been just under a year since the 2,500th U.S. servicemember died in Iraq. With the toll of this war continuing to mount, particularly since the President decided to escalate our involvement, we must redouble our efforts to change course in Iraq. We owe it to the troops serving in Iraq. These brave men and women signed up to defend their country, not to police an Iraqi civil war. Many of these individuals chose to join the Armed Forces as a result of the horrific attacks of September 11. Yet they have found themselves fighting in a country that had nothing to do with those attacks. As they endure untold hardship in Iraq, al-Qaida and its extremist network are rebuilding in Afghanistan, northern Africa and around the globe.

As I am sure my colleagues have done, I have been to the memorial services honoring the dead, I have handed the wounded their Purple Hearts, I have spoken to the parents whose children have returned from war with brain injuries they will live with for the rest of their lives. These experiences are a constant reminder of the responsibility we have to the brave individuals who have volunteered to defend their country. We have a duty to ensure that when they are asked to fight on our behalf, it is not on the basis of false premises and shifting rationales. We have a duty not to put them in harm's way when there is no exit strategy. Most importantly, we have a duty to bring them home because we know there is no military solution to the war they are fighting.

We must help the Iraqi people rebuild their country and we must work to build the broad international coalition that is needed to help bring peace and stability to Iraq. But our servicemembers in Iraq have been asked to do the impossible—they have been asked to resolve political and other differences by military force. The Congress has the power to change this misguided policy by forcing the President to redeploy U.S. troops. Measures

that express the need for a policy shift, and concern for the well-being of the troops, may be well-intended but they do not go far enough and they will not help the troops. Only binding legislation requiring redeployment will prevent further brave servicemembers from losing their lives for this administration's failed and self-defeating policies.

Many soldiers serving in Iraq have written to me to express their support for my efforts to end this war. It is with them in mind that I will continue working to end this tragic mistake.

COLLAPSE OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to note that exactly 20 years ago, on June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood at the Berlin wall, at the Brandenburg Gate, and issued his—issued liberty's—famous challenge to Soviet tyranny:

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

Although that speech was deeply rooted in the Cold War, and is indeed seen as a significant milestone in that war, it also spoke larger truths. President Reagan also said:

Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.

President Reagan was not just addressing West Berlin, and the Soviet General Secretary, he was addressing the world, and posterity. He was expounding on the American ideal of liberty and justice for all. He was not addressing a regional problem, but mankind's aspirations. It was a triumphant moment for Americans and our ideals.

Accordingly, I have previously submitted a resolution, S. Con. Res. 1, calling for an artistic rendering of that moment in time to be painted into the Capitol, along with the other significant scenes of our Nation's past. As we walk through the building today, we can see scenes from the Nation's founding, from the Civil War, our westward expansion, even the Moon landing and *Challenger* astronauts. I would like to also see Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate. I think it would be entirely appropriate to have this image added. It would be an important reminder of the struggle this Nation undertook. It would stand for the millions of Americans who did their part for nearly half a century in that struggle, both military and civilian. And it would testify to the greatness of our Nation, and the greatness of our 40th President.

Today I am adding cosponsors to that resolution. I urge my remaining colleagues to join me as well. This is worth doing.